

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19 and 21-24 are presently active in this case, Claim 17 having been amended and Claim 20 having been canceled by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 6-304973 in view of JP 6-315961. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

The Applicants note that certified English language translations of the foreign priority documents (JP 10-258921 and JP 10-292637) of the present application have been submitted in the present case. The Applicants further note that the Kanematsu et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,287,504 B1) is not expressly cited in the obviousness rejection set forth in the outstanding Official Action. In fact, the Kanematsu et al. reference cannot be used in an obviousness rejection of the claims in the present application (see 35 U.S.C. 103(c)), as noted in the Amendment filed on July 12, 2002. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the use of any descriptions in the Kanematsu et al. reference is improper. Therefore, the outstanding obviousness rejection must rely upon the actual teachings of JP 6-304973, and not any description thereof (accurate or not) in the Kanematsu et al. reference.

The Applicants have submitted a complete version of JP 6-304973, which is in addition to the English language abstract of JP 6-304973 that was previously submitted by Information Disclosure Statement.

Amended Claim 17 recites a plastic molding comprising at least one transfer surface being an optical surface, and a plurality of imperfect transfer portions each having a concave or convex shape. At least one of the imperfect transfer portions is located in at least one

prescribed portion of the plastic molding so as to release a residual resin-pressure and an inward deformation of the plastic molding, and at least one of the plurality of imperfect transfer portions is formed so as to have a contour *disposed apart from an edge of the transfer surface*. As noted above, the figures of JP 6-304973 and the English language abstract thereof do not disclose a plastic molding having at least one imperfect transfer portion formed as to have a contour *disposed apart from the edge of a transfer surface*.

Amended claim 21 recites a plastic molding comprising a transfer surface, at least one imperfect transfer portion, and a second transfer surface. The at least one imperfect transfer portion has a concave or convex shape, where the imperfect transfer portion is located in at least one prescribed portion of the plastic molding so as to release a residual resin-pressure and an inward deformation of the plastic molding. The imperfect transfer portion is formed in a portion other than the transfer surface, and the imperfect transfer portion is formed so as to have a contour *disposed apart from an edge of the transfer surface*. The imperfect transfer portion is formed in a portion between the transfer surface and the second transfer surface so as to have a contour *disposed apart from edges of both the transfer surface and the second transfer surface*.

The Official Action refers to Figures 3B and 4A of the Kanematsu et al. reference for the teaching of "molded articles having first and second optical transfer surfaces and at least one imperfect transfer portion formed as to have a contour disposed apart from the edge of the transfer surface." However, The Applicants note that the prior art figures in the Kanematsu et al. reference are not present in JP 6-304973, for example, Figures 3B and 4A of the Kanematsu et al. reference are not present within JP 6-304973. Additionally, the figures of JP 6-304973 and the English language abstract thereof do not appear to disclose plastic moldings having at least one imperfect transfer portion formed as to have a contour *disposed*

apart from the edge of the transfer surface, as recited in Claims 17 and 21 of the present application. Furthermore, JP 6-304973 reference does not appear to disclose a plastic molding *where the imperfect transfer portion is formed in a portion between the transfer surface and the second transfer surface* so as to have a contour *disposed apart from edges of both the transfer surface and the second transfer surface*, as recited in Claim 21.

The Applicants further submit that JP 6-315961 does not appear to supplement the deficiencies noted above in the teachings of JP 6-304973 with respect to Claim 17. More specifically, as noted in the Amendment filed on April 11, 2002, JP 6-315961 does not disclose a plastic molding having at least one transfer surface *being an optical surface*, as recited in Claim 17. Accordingly, it follows that JP 6-315961 does not disclose a plastic molding having at least one imperfect transfer portion formed as to have a contour *disposed apart from the edge of the transfer surface*, as recited in Claim 17 of the present application. Thus, the Applicants submit that since the cited references, either taken singularly or in combination, do not disclose all of the limitations recited in Claim 17, then a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established with respect to Claim 17 based on the cited references.

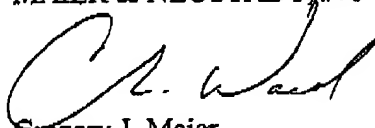
Additionally, with respect to Claim 21, the Applicants submit that JP 6-315961 does not appear to supplement the deficiencies noted above in the teachings of JP 6-304973. JP 6-315961 does not appear to disclose a plastic molding *where the imperfect transfer portion is formed in a portion between the transfer surface and the second transfer surface* so as to have a contour *disposed apart from edges of both the transfer surface and the second transfer surface*, as recited in Claim 21. Thus, the Applicants submit that since the cited references, either taken singularly or in combination, do not disclose all of the limitations recited in Claim 21, then a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established with respect to Claim 21 based on the cited references.

Claims 18, 19, and 22-24 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 17 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 17.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

17. (Twice Amended) A plastic molding comprising:
at least one transfer surface, the transfer surface being an optical surface; and
a plurality of imperfect transfer portions each having a concave or convex shape,
wherein at least one of the imperfect transfer portions is located in at least one prescribed
portion of the plastic molding so as to release a residual resin-pressure and an inward
deformation of the plastic molding,
wherein at least one of the plurality of imperfect transfer portions is formed so as to
have a contour disposed apart from an edge of the transfer surface.

20. (Cancel)